

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows, substituting any amended claim(s) for the corresponding pending claim(s):

1 -6. (Canceled).

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 1, wherein characterizing the plurality of beacons with regard to signal quality comprises:~~ A method for operating a wireless terminal within a Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN), the method comprising:

receiving capability data carried by at least some of the a plurality of beacons transmitted by a corresponding plurality of Wireless Access Points (WAPs) of the WLAN, wherein the capability data indicates whether a corresponding access point is capable of directional antenna servicing; and

processing received capability data to ~~determine the~~ select a desired WAP of the plurality of WAPs;

associating with the desired WAP of the plurality of WAPs; and

adjusting the gain vector of a servicing antenna of the wireless terminal so that it is substantially directed toward the desired WAP of the plurality of WAPs.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 1, wherein characterizing the plurality of beacons with regard to signal quality comprises:~~ A method for operating a wireless terminal within a Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN), the method comprising:

receiving capability data carried by at least some of ~~the~~ a plurality of beacons transmitted by a corresponding plurality of Wireless Access Points (WAPs) of the WLAN, wherein the capability data indicates whether a corresponding access point is capable of transmit power control; ~~and~~

processing received capability data to ~~determine the~~ select a desired WAP of the plurality of WAPs;

associating with the desired WAP of the plurality of WAPs; and

adjusting the gain vector of a servicing antenna of the wireless terminal so that it is substantially directed toward the desired WAP of the plurality of WAPs.

9-14. (Canceled).

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The wireless terminal of claim 9, wherein in executing the plurality of instructions to characterize the plurality of beacons with regard to signal quality, the wireless terminal:~~ A wireless terminal that operates within a Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN), the wireless terminal comprising:

a directional antenna;

a radio frequency unit operably coupled to the directional antenna; and

a processor operably coupled to the radio frequency unit, wherein the processor operates to execute:

a plurality of instructions that cause the wireless terminal to receives receive capability data carried by at least some of the a plurality of beacons transmitted by a corresponding plurality of Wireless Access Points (WAPs) of the WLAN, wherein the capability data indicates whether a corresponding access point is capable of directional antenna servicing; and

a plurality of instructions that cause the wireless terminal to processes process received capability data to determine the select a desired WAP of the plurality of WAPs;

a plurality of instructions that cause the wireless terminal to associate with the desired WAP of the plurality of WAPs; and

a plurality of instructions that cause the wireless terminal to adjust a gain vector of the directional antenna of the wireless terminal so that it is substantially directed toward the desired WAP of the plurality of WAPs.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~The wireless terminal of claim 9, wherein in executing the plurality of instructions to characterize the plurality of beacons with regard to signal quality, the wireless terminal:~~ A wireless terminal that operates within a Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN), the wireless terminal comprising:

a directional antenna;

a radio frequency unit operably coupled to the directional antenna; and

a processor operably coupled to the radio frequency unit, wherein the processor operates to execute:

a plurality of instructions that cause the wireless terminal to receives receive capability data carried by at least some of the a plurality of beacons transmitted by a corresponding plurality of Wireless Access Points (WAPs) of the WLAN, wherein the capability data indicates whether a corresponding access point is capable of transmit power control; and

a plurality of instructions that cause the wireless terminal to processes process received capability data to determine the select a desired WAP of the plurality of WAPs;

a plurality of instructions that cause the wireless terminal to associate with the desired WAP of the plurality of WAPs; and

a plurality of instructions that cause the wireless terminal to adjust a gain vector of the directional antenna of the wireless terminal so that it is substantially directed toward the desired WAP of the plurality of WAPs.

17. (Currently Amended) The wireless terminal of claim 9 16, wherein the directional antenna comprises:

a single antenna having a plurality of antenna elements; and

a directional antenna controller operably coupled to the single antenna and to the radio frequency unit.

18. (Currently Amended) The wireless terminal of claim 9 16, wherein the directional antenna comprises:

a plurality of antennas; and

a directional antenna controller operably coupled to the plurality of antennas and to the radio frequency unit.

19-24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) ~~The wireless terminal of claim 19, wherein means for characterizing the plurality of beacons with regard to signal quality comprises:~~ A wireless terminal comprising:

means for receiving capability data carried by at least some of ~~the~~ a plurality of beacons transmitted by a corresponding plurality of WAPs, wherein the capability data indicates whether a corresponding access point is capable of directional antenna servicing; ~~and~~

means for processing received capability data to ~~determine the~~ select a desired WAP of the plurality of WAPs;

means for associating with the desired WAP of the plurality of WAPs; and
means for adjusting a gain vector of a servicing antenna of the wireless terminal
so that it is substantially directed toward the desired WAP of the plurality of WAPs.

26. (Currently Amended) ~~The wireless terminal of claim 19, wherein means~~
~~for characterizing the plurality of beacons with regard to signal quality comprises: A~~
wireless terminal comprising:

means for receiving capability data carried by at least some of ~~the~~ a plurality of
beacons transmitted by a corresponding plurality of WAPs, wherein the capability data
indicates whether a corresponding access point is capable of transmit power control; ~~and~~

means for processing received capability data to ~~determine the~~ select a desired
WAP of the plurality of WAPs;

means for associating with the desired WAP of the plurality of WAPs; and
means for adjusting a gain vector of a servicing antenna of the wireless terminal
so that it is substantially directed toward the desired WAP of the plurality of WAPs.